To the British Medical Association

Annual report of Medical Officer of Health

Copy

Population in 1891	12,166
Area in Acres	26.521
Inhabited houses	3.116

The district consists of 11 parishes viz:—
Cam, Coaley, Dursley, Kingswood North Nibley
Nymphfield, Owlpen, Slimbridge, Stinchcombe,
Uley and Wotton-u-Edge.
Inspector of Nuisances Mr J Robinson.
Silver St Dursley.

To the Chairman & members of the Rural
District Council.

Gentlemen,

Situation of Districts

The rural district of Dursley is situated on the sides and buttresses of the Western Cotswolds which consists largely of the white lime stone. Many of the houses are build upon the hill sides or on the abutments which run out to different distances into the valley of the Severn.
Slimbridge is the only parish wholly

situated in the valley; so that for the most part the district is naturally well drained. The chief streams which drain the district are the Cam, which drains Uley Dursley and Cam and receives a part of the drainage of Coaley; empties itself into the Berkeley and Gloucester Canal The Nibley Brook which drains North Nibley empties itself into the Matford Brook. The Dyer's brook and Aldeley Brook which unite at Kingswood, these drain Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood, and joins the Wickwar Brook.

The Wickwar Brook is a boundary between the Dursley Rural District and the Chipping Sodbury and Thornbury Rural Districts None of these streams are used for drinking purposes by human beings.

The water supply

The water supply of the District is as follows: Wotton-u-Edge has now possessed its own water supply within a certain area since October 8th. 1894. This when it is a dry summer is found to be inadequate so that a suggestion was made to increase the supply by utilizing three springs which rise on the hill east of Coombe on land belonging to Lord Fitzhardinge and for this purpose Mr. Robinson visited and inspected the springs in July, but were of opinion that the collective supply would not be worth the outlay.

There is now a scheme under consideration for increasing the storage this in my opinion would meet the difficulty in the dry weather the storage being small only about three days supply. In addition to the above, there is "The Row" and "Old Town" a supply brought from a spring on the hill side north of the town.

The outskirts of the parish are supplied by springs or dipwells or cisterns with taps. The Village of Kingswood has its own water supply, the source of which is on the side of the hill facing Wotton-Under-Edge. Cooley also has a water supply, this is from Spring Spring, the outskirts of the parish by dipwells.

Many of the inhabitants in Dursley are supplied by wells on their premises, but on the higher parts of the town, and also for the workhouse the water has to be fetched from the Broadwell, which is a copious stream of water near the centre of the town. For some time past various schemes have been suggested for supplying Dursley with water, but without success as yet, except what has been done by private enterprise and through the kindness of Mrs Eyre, who had pipes laid on and taps fixed in the upper part of Union St, and Hunger Hill which supplies water from her cistern by gravitation. This need has been met, where it was the greatest.

A scheme with certain provisos is under consideration for supplying the town with water from a copious supply on land belonging to Mr Phelps. This would have to be pumped to a reservoir on higher ground than the town so as to supply it to the town by gravitation.

The small water supply in Upper Cam has been further extended, and a stand pipe placed, at the side of the road near the back of the church. So that there are now three outlets, two cisterns and one stand pipe at different distances apart. The small supply in Lower Cam, was increased and extended during 897 to the great convenience of people living in Cowley. All these supplies are under the control of your Board.

All the remaining parishes are supplied by springs and deep or shallow wells, some with, the greater number without pumps.

Acting on suggestions of memorandum of Local Government Board issued about the end of the year 1897 "on water supplies in districts not within the limits of supply of water companies". I with Mr Robinson visited and inspected the sources and surroundings of 43 water supplies between Jan 18 and Feb: 3rd and issued a special report thereon with many suggestions as to removal of refuse from near wells, cleansing and covering of wells &c &c. Many of which have been carried out, in my opinion, much towards the improvement and preservation of the supplies. None of the gathering grounds to the larger supplies are in any appreciable danger of becoming polluted, still the enclosure of a piece of land all around the immediate source would be a step in the direction of preserving the supplies. It might prevent pollution of sources and soil of gathering ground around, by human excrement as well as by droppings by cattle grazing in the fields in which the sources of supplies arise.

The Sewers and Sewage

The sewage of Dursley is partly water borne, partly collected in dry-earth closets, and partly in the old fashioned privy vaults. The water borne enters the stream called the Cam. One of the sewers empties itself into the Broadwell stream, this passes through a mill which is a very unsatisfactory state of things.

This I have before pointed out ought to be taken out of the stream, and carried to the bottom of the town. Some of the sewers are very defective being built of loose stone. A special report thereon was made by me in July. The scavanging is done once a week when the dry earth closets are emptied. The sewage of Wotton-u-Edge is only to a small extent water borne, dry earth closets being by far the most common method of collecting it. The scavanging is done once a week. Most of the sewers are built of loose stone; all emptying into the Dyer's Brook.

The other parishes have no proper sewers The commonest method of collecting the sewage is by the privy vault which is often very large and most unhealthy. I am fully convinced that many bad throats have their origin in these large accumulations of foecal matter.

A small but important sewer was laid in Lower Cam near the milestone, this did away with a cesspool lying in contact with the foundations of a cottage. From this cesspool the sewage was carried down the ditch at the side of the high way. By the laying of the sewer from the cesspool at the side of the road the sewage is carried fifty or sixty yards away from any human habitation, and all the former nuisances connected with this particular outlet done away with.

Wickwar Brook. August 16th and 17th I visited and inspected the sewers at the Workhouse Dursley and made a special report thereon. I visited & inspected the Wickwar Brook on Sept 16th & again the Wickwar Brook & sewage Works on Oct 26th and gave it as my opinion that when the works are complete the nuisance will be to a large extent if not

entirely abated.

Inspection of Nuisances

I made nineteen visits of inspection of Nuisances in different parts of the district during the year these were created by foul ditches, pig-sties drains &c. Most of the inspections were made with the Inspector of Nuisances, and all placed in his hands to get abated.

Housing of Working-classes Act

Two visits of inspection were made under the Act of 1890 dealing with unhealthy dwellings one at the Quarry, Cam, In this case a closing order was made, in the other at Combley Rd Kingswood it being unoccupied, and at the time not dangerous to the public health no action was taken.

Under the Public Health Act 1875 Sec: 46 dealing with cleansing and limewashing no inspection was made during the year.

Unhealthy dwellings

Over Crowding

I visited and inspected one case of over-crowding during the year. This was abated by a rearrangement of the sleeping accomodation.

Plans of New Buildings

Two sets of plans of new buildings were examined by me during the year.

Under the Public Health Act 1878 dealing with water supply to new dwelling houses I made four visits of inspection during the year, dealing with the supply to six cottages.

Factory and Workshops Acts

Factory and Workshops Acts 1878 to 1895 - No visit of inspection was made in April and again in November I with Mr Robinson visited and inspected the two common lodging houses in Wotton-u-Edge

Common Lodging houses

Bye laws relating to common lodging houses, are now in force in the district.

The second inspection was made under the Bye laws which came into force during the last quarter of the year.
In almost every respect the Common lodging house in Bradley II complies, and complied with the Bye laws. The one in "The Cloud" we hope to bring more into conformity with them. There is no Common lodging house in Dewsley.

Bake-houses & Slaughter-houses

Between Oct 11th and 27th we visited and inspected the 34 bakehouses in the district. We found them all satisfactory. There is no bakehouse in the district wholly under ground.
The slaughter houses inspected were 32. Of these we found 29 satisfactory. We recommended greater cleanliness and lime washing in three.

Water Analysis

Fifteen samples of water were examined by me during the year. Of these I found three not satisfactory, and got the wells cleaned which greatly improved the supplies.

Prosecutions

There was one prosecution during the year of one Timothy Malkas. The Quarry Cave under Part II Housing of Working Classes Act. A closing order was made.
Between Jan 1st and Oct 21st there came to my knowledge eight cases of dangerous infectious diseases enumerated in the schedule of these six were cases of Scarlatina, one of Typhoid fever, and one of Erysipelas. Besides, some cases of whooping cough and measles.
The Act for the Compulsory Notification of dangerous infectious disease came into force in the district on Nov 1st and under the above Act from Nov 1st to Dec 31st nine cases of dangerous infectious disease were notified

in the district. These were, one of Diphtheria one of Membraneous Croup six of Scarlatina and one of Erysipelas. I made five special visits of inspections in connection with the above cases. All were visited and reported on to me by the Inspector of Nuisances.

Closing of Schools — The Public Elementary Schools Kingswood were closed 14 days in June on account of whooping cough.

Isolation — One case of Diphtheria was sent to the hospital for isolating dangerous infectious disease at the Moors Coaley. In the case in which the child lived, isolation could not be properly carried out. And many children lived in the cottages near. There was no spreading of the disease. Diphtheria does not spread from one family to another in the same way as small pox and Scarlatina does. But the most fruitful source of mischief is in the attendance at school of a child or children suffering from the disease even though it be in its mildest form.

Early and protracted isolation according to the nature of the malady of the infected and thorough disinfection will do much to prevent the spread of dangerous infectious disease.

Compulsory Notification — The Act for the Compulsory Notification of dangerous infectious disease was adopted by your Board on Sept 23rd by a Majority of one and came into force (after being duly advertised) on Nov 4th. By the adoption of the above Act I hope not only to get a complete knowledge of all the cases of dangerous infectious disease occuring in the district but a sufficiently early knowledge as shall enable one to put into force earlier, and more efficiently, the Acts for the Prevention of dangerous infectious disease.

Influenza

About the end of January cases of Influenza became prevalent, it became rather severe in February and slowly subsided towards the end of the month. There were very few fatal cases, or even serious ones in the district.

Attendance at Meetings

I attended twelve meetings of your Board during the year, and one of a "Special" Sanitary committee.

Vital Statistics

In the estimation of the population at all ages living at the middle of July 1898. I have adopted a down-grade scale and that is taking the average rate of decline for the last thirty years before the census year 1891. the loss is 138 per annum and the estimated population is 11891. The births registered exceed the deaths registered by 121 in 1898. this is called the "Natural Increment". In this district in the past for so long a period both immigration and Natural Increment" even (if at the same rate as at the present) were unable to balance the loss to the district by emmigration.

The vital statistics for the year are as follows viz:- There were 274 births registered in the district during the year of these 145 were males and 129 females. In 1897 there were 292 births registered during the year so that there were 18 fewer births registered in 1898 than in 1897. In 1897 two more females were registered than in 1898. In 96 sixteen more males were registered than females. The birth rate for 1898 per thousand of estimated population living at all ages at the middle of the year is 23·04 in 1897 it was 25·98 This is called "The Crude birth rate" and is

very low, lower in fact than for several years past. The birth rate for Gloucestershire in 1894 was 25·2 and for all England and Wales 29·7.

The deaths registered in the district during the year were 153 of these 75 were males and 78 were females, so that 3 more females deaths were registered than males. The general death rate for the year per thousand estimated population is 12·8. This is the lowest death rate for several years. In 1894 it was 14·83. The general death-rate for the County of Gloucester was 14·6. And for all England and Wales 14·4. The Annual death rate for the different districts are Dursley & workhouse 13·6 Uley 8·4 and Wotton-u-Edge 13·7. The deaths arranged according to (Table A) Various ages are as follows under one year 29. one and under five 4, five & under fifteen 3. fifteen and under twenty-five 4. twenty five and under sixty five 36. Sixty five and upwards 77. Sixty five lived over 70 years nineteen over 80 years. and seven lived upwards of 90 years.

The deaths registered under one year were 29 and the rate of Infant Mortality is 105·8; that is the deaths under one year of age occuring in the year to a thousand births. In 1894 it was 92·46 for the County of Gloucester it was 110·6 and for all England and Wales it was 136.

Infant Mortality

The rate of Infant Mortality is higher than last year but is low compared with all England & Wales. The rate of Infant Mortality for the Dursley district and Workhouse is as low as 46·2 while that for Wotton-u-Edge is 146·7. This was due to some diarrhoea which accounted for five deaths. No death was registered in the

other districts from this disease. Six died from some Acute Respiratory disease in the Wotton-Under-Edge District, only one death from Acute Respiratory disease was registered in the other districts and that occured in the Workhouse.

Zymotic Diseases and death-rate

The seven principle Zymotic Diseases, were the cause of death in five persons, these were all under 5 years of age, all died of diarrhœa and all in the Wotton-u-Edge district. I requested Mr Robinson to make special enquiries about these cases, he did so, but found nothing in common as a cause of the disease, they were scattered in different parts of the district. Four died in the Summer quarter out of the five and the fifth in the Autumn quarter. The Zymotic death rate per thousand estimated population is .42. For 1897 it was a little over 1. for 1896 it was .91. For the County of Gloucester for 1897 it was .7 and for all England and Wales it was 2.15.

There were two deaths registered in the district from Membraneous Croup. One in the Wotton-u-Edge and one in the Dursley, one death was registered in the Uley district from Erysipelas. But no death was registered from Small pox, Scarlatina, Typhus, Typhoid, Continued, Relapsing or Puerperal fever, Cholera, Measles, or Whooping cough. There was one death from Rheumatic fever. No death from Influenza.

There were 23 deaths from Acute Respiratory Diseases and the death rate per thousand estimated population is 1.9 in 1897 it was 3.18. There were six deaths from Phthisis against 14 in 1897. No death from Ague, Eighteen from Heart Disease, Eight from Injuries, and five from Cancer, all in the Dursley district. At the reques of the Gloucestershire County Council Cancer

was placed in a separate column in ("Table A").

Table "B" This is necessarily defective the Act for the Compulsory Notification of dangerous infectious disease not being adopted and coming into force until towards the end of the year. The sources before the adoption of the Act were either meagre or slow or undesirable, and quite useless as a means for checking the spread of dangerous infectious disease, or as a guide as to the prevalence of dangerous infectious disease in the district. According to ("Table B") there were 19 cases of Scarlatina, one of Diphtheria one of Membranous Croup one of Typhoid fever and two of Erysipelas occured in the district during the year.

Prospective The subjects most conspicuous above the Sanitary horizon at the end of the year and which will require your careful consideration:- are the Dursley Water Supply; Increased storage for Wotton-u-Edge Water Supply; the advisability of subscribing to the Clinical Research Association and the advisability of securing The Moors; as a permanent hospital for the treatment of dangerous infectious disease. Also better Scavanging of the village of Cam.

Appended is the annual report of work done by My Sanitary Inspector of Nuisances.

I remain

Your Obedient Servant

Francis Jos. Jones

Medical Officer of Health.

Feb 15th 1899.

Annual report of nuisances reported and abated for the year ending December 31st 1898

To the Dudley Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

I have visited and inspected 74 registered dairies & milkshops, in the eleven parishes of my district and found them satisfactory. There have been Scarlatina at two of the registered dairies every precaution was taken and milk selling stopped. Both premises have been thoroughly disinfected. There have been 114 nuisances reported & abated as follows.

Dwelling Houses	Overcrowding abated	4
	dilapidated & defective repaired	1
	cleaned and disinfected	12
	Water supply provided	6
Closets	New provided	2
	Rebuilt or repaired	14
	Cleaned	30
Drains	New provided	4
	Defective remedied	21
	Foul ditches cleaned	5
Other Nuisances	Offensive refuse removed	8
	Pig nuisances abated	5
	Offensive cesspools abated	2
		114

over.

Number of nuisances abated without formal notice. 56
Statutory Notices served 5-8
Summons issued 0
Total 114

Thomas Robinson
Sanitary Inspector

February 9th. 1899

(1) Table of Deaths during the year 1898 in the Dursley Rural District

Classified according to Diseases, Ages & Localities

Names of Localities considered for the purposes of these Statistics (the Institutions are shown as separate localities with Population & Births as in Table B)	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages: At all ages (b)	Under 1 year (c)	1 and under 5 (d)	5 and under 15 (e)	15 and under 25 (f)	25 and under 65 (g)	65 and upwards (h)	(i)	Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under 5 years of age: 1 Small pox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Typhus	6 Enteric or Typhoid	7 Continued	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12 Measles	13 Whooping Cough	14 Diarrhœa & Dysentery	15 Rheumatic Fever	16 Phthisis	17 Bronchitis & Pneumonia & Pleurisy	18 Heart Disease	19 Cancer	20 Injuries	21 All Other Diseases	22 Total
Dursley District	66	8	1	-	2	14	41	Under 5				1														1		1	6	9
								5 upwards															1	2	6	11	5	4	28	57
Workhouse	4	1	-	-	-	1	2	Under 5																	1					1
								5 upwards																		1			2	3
Cam District	16	4	-	-	1	3	6	Under 5																					4	4
								5 upwards											1					2					9	12
Stroud & N.W. Edge District	67	16	3	3	1	16	28	Under 5				1										5			6				7	19
								5 upwards																2	10	6		3	27	48
Totals	153	29	4	3	4	36	77	Under 5				2							5			5			7	1		1	17	33
								5 upwards											1				1	6	16	18	5	7	66	120

(13)

Table of Population, Births, and of new cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898 in the Dursley Rural District; classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics. Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	Population at all ages: Last Census (b)	Population at all ages: Estimated to middle of 1898 (c)	Registered Births (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5 (e)	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the M.O.H.: 1 Smallpox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Erysipelas	6 Typhus	7 Enteric or Typhoid Fevers	8 Continued	9 Relapsing	10 Puerperal	11 Cholera	12 Erysipelas	13
Dursley district	5242	5122	118	Under 5				1									
				5 upwds		11	1			1							
Workhouse	"	"	"	Under 5		2											
				5 upwds		3									1		
(H) Uley District	1926	1883	47	Under 5													
				5 upwds											1		
Wotton-u-Edge	4998	4886	109	Under 5		1											
				5 upwds		2											
Totals	12166	11891	274	Under 5		3		1									
				5 upwds		16	1			1					2		

Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.

1 Smallpox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Typhus	6 Enteric or Typhoid Fevers	7 Continued	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12	13
		1										

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is Compulsory in the District Yes Since when? Nov 4th 1898. Besides the above mentioned Diseases, insert in the Columns with blank Headings the names of any other Diseases that are Notifiable in the District & fill columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such hospital is situated; or if not within the District, state where it is situated The Moors Cowley.